

Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2010

Statement on Food Safety Legislation

July 7, 2010

A year ago today, the Food Safety Working Group, chaired by Health and Human Service Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, announced key findings on how to upgrade the food safety system. Since then, my administration has taken steps to reduce the prevalence of *E. coli*, implemented new standards to reduce exposure to *Campylobacter*, and issued a rule to control *Salmonella* contamination. Among other accomplishments, the FDA has conducted a pilot study on a tracing system, and HHS, in collaboration with USDA, has rolled out an enhanced and updated www.foodsafety.gov site to provide consumers rapid access to information on food recalls.

But there is more to be done. Today I thank the House for its work and support efforts in the Senate to pass S. 510, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. This bipartisan bill would complement the work already undertaken by the Food Safety Working Group. The bill addresses longstanding challenges in the food safety and defense system by promoting a prevention-oriented approach to the safety of our food supply and provides the Federal Government with the appropriate tools to accomplish its core food safety goals.

Categories: Statements by the President : Food safety legislation.

Names: Sebelius, Kathleen; Vilsack, Thomas J.

Subjects: Agriculture : Food safety; Agriculture, Department of : Secretary; Food Safety Working Group, President's; Health and Human Services, Department of : Secretary; Legislation, proposed : "FDA Food Safety Modernization Act".

DCPD Number: DCPD201000579.